



MiataTudes

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association—Volume 16—Number 7

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From Robin's Nest...

By Robin George

Welcome to the summer. The club recently had some great events. If this is a sign of what our club is capable of then I take my hat off to those organizers.

1st was the Concours d' Elegance at Mather Industrial Park (Old Air Force Base in Rancho Cordova). This was sponsored and for the benefit of the Shiners Children's Hospital. In the past the event was located at the Cocker Art Museum next to Old Sacramento. It also was described as the premier car event for Sacramento. Time has taken its toll.



Rod Gonzales stepped forward to organize and gather the prerequisite 10 cars needed for the club to attend. 8 of 10 members showed up and displayed their cars among the BMW's, Corvettes, Lotus's, Classic's and wooden boats. All of the cars displayed were fantastic. Many people (public and other car owners) stopped by to look at our vehicles and even asked questions. Years ago people would just walk by. Congratulations to our prize winners.

2nd is "Got Guts At Thunderhill". I didn't enter my "Tobarr" to go screaming around the track but went to the track to help Ron out with his event. Fantastic!!! He had sold out his event and the paddock was full. Drivers were busy preparing their vehicles and wearing themselves out. Later I went to the Willows Airport and Club Member Joe Rainbolt picked me up in his airplane and we buzzed the track several times. One driver wanted to blame us for driving off the track....nice try. Ron was able to raise over \$10,000 for the charity. Nice job, Ron.

The previous two events are at different ends of the spectrum. Both are outstanding events and show what we offer as a club besides driving from point A to point B. There will be many more events before the end of the year so let's get out there. We have many more coming up. All kinds.



THUNDERHILL



FROM THE AIR



SAMOA
PO Box 392
Orangevale, CA
95662

www.samoa.org

SAMOA is a 501(c)(7) non-profit corporation organized in the State of California for the benefit of its membership. SAMOA Membership dues are \$24 for 12 months and include 12 issues of MiataTudes and one email account. Applications and checks should be mailed to SAMOA, PO Box 392, Orangevale, CA 95662.

July Jaunts... July 4th. Garden Valley 4th. Of July Parade & Barbecue... July 9th. Gold Rush Run... July 13th. SAMOA Monthly Meeting... July 14th. Bastille Day... July 22nd. Run Around The Hills With Baddtaz...



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We wish to thank the following businesses for offering SAMOA members discounts with presentation of their membership card

America's Tire Company

Mike Wilson (916) 331-3670
Ramps@dgweb.com

Automotive Unlimited

Darrell (916) 989-3325

Autozone

19th. & Broadway only
Glen (916)443-5479

Bob's Custom Upholstery

Roseville (916) 784-1442

Carquest Auto Parts

1945 Broadway only
Harold Taylor (916) 737-7280

Chevron Lead Hill

Roseville Auto Mall

Dan Driffill (916) 786-9888

The Clearwater Company

Skip Noyes (916) 852-1423

Crazy Red Italian

Dave DeNuzzo (916) 456-2277

Discount Tire Centers

Citrus Heights (916) 725-7337

Great Valley Mazda

Sacramento (916) 973-3240

Harbor Freight Tools

6964 65th. Street Sacramento
Dan Rasmussen (916) 393-7875

Kneisels Body Shop

Citrus Heights

Dave or Robert (916) 969-0788

Made in Japan / Made in America

10% off parts/labor on any work done

Rancho Cordova (916) 635-7444

Roseville (916) 773-0969

Sacramento (916) 349-8919

Sacramento (916) 486-4100

Mazda's Plus

Harold Brown (916) 421-5708

Midtown Framing & Gallery

Save 20% on any custom frame project and

Selected framed and unframed artwork

25th and J Street (916) 447-7558

Movado Body Shop

Sacramento (916) 482-7818

OK Tires of Sacramento

Sacramento (916) 331-2751

Seat Works

Carpet, padding, seat covers,

Soft top repair & installation

Sacramento (916) 483-7994

Towe Auto Museum

2200 Front Street
Sacramento (916) 442-6802

Event Horizon...

By Ron Petrich

Well, another month has gone by and “hard” summer has arrived. You know, 100 plus degree days, air conditioning bills in the stratosphere, the longest days of the year...and the best darn time for top down motoring this side of Lodi. We actually have it pretty good here in the Sacramento valley, compared to the rest of the planet. Here is a sample from the weather lady...forecasts for June 27, 2006: Death Valley 118, Redding 111, Phoenix 109, Washington DC 88 with relative humidity of 96%, Buffalo 76 AND rain...OK OK we get the message. All in all, our 98 today isn't that bad, and my air conditioning has been disconnected for almost two years. The secret is to just keep moving, find places where you can just drive, and then...just drive. Rod and I did that Sunday. I had hoped that a few more would have shown up for our jaunt up to Kirkwood, but I would have gone alone just to experience the open road, the smell of manzanita above four thousand feet, and of course those super fluffy hotcakes at the Kirkwood Inn. All in all it was a great diversion for a Sunday morning, not much traffic, and to our surprise, two funnel clouds descending from a thunderstorm above Mount Tallac made the drive up much more interesting. And it was all free (except the hotcakes).



Last Monday finally came (and went), and Got Guts At Thunderhill, our track day at Thunderhill Raceway Park, took place. More than 70 drivers experienced the thrill of taking the three-mile long road course at speed, and a great time was had by (almost) all of the participants. The owner of a 2002 Porsche 996 unfortunately knows exactly what a new 3.6 liter motor costs, as he will be replacing his after several internal parts ended up where they weren't supposed to end up. And sadly, another driver will be replacing his entire car after it was totaled at the exit to turn 15 in a single car incident. Thankfully no injuries in either case, and I'm not sure which will cost more, the Porsche motor or the entire wrecked coupe. These were unfortunately black marks on an otherwise unblemished track day, which raised more than \$10,000 for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America.



I want to thank the following vendors who donated raffle prizes in support of this event (in no particular order): Bonni Weatherwax, Duetto Motors, Mike Petrich, Flyin' Miata, Thunderhill, In-N-Out Burger, Laguna Seca, Infineon Raceway, Grassroots Motorsports, Autoweek, G-Force, Meguiars, Mothers Polish, Grgich Hills Winery, Thompson Automotive, Windwalker Winery, The Tire Rack, Jason Miner, Bogle Vineyards, Matanzas Creek Winery, Starbucks, Clearwater Audio, PR Motorsports, Casa Ramos Restaurants, Stoner Inc., Crazy Red, The Knobmeister, Moss Motors, Got Blue Milk, K&N Filters, Go Miata, Shawn Crabtree, Kaiser Permanente, The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America and 303 Products.

I am also grateful to Robin George, our president, who drove up on his own nickel “just” to help out. And help out he did, with registra-

tion, with the raffle, with cleanup, etc. Thanks Robin. Bob Carlson was most helpful and efficient in keeping track of all the monies that I deposited in our bank account. The day after the event we were able to agree to the penny as to how much we had collected. Thanks Bob. Also thank you's to my sister Nancy, her husband Marty, and my dear wife Mary Pat...it would not have been a success without your tireless help on Sunday and all day Monday. And Mary Pat even took a couple of laps with me on the track, just so she could experience what I've been saying about track days these last four or five years. Thanks MP for not getting sick in the car. Finally, I want to say thanks to all of you in SAMOA who helped to support this event by 1) participating 2) buying raffle tickets, and 3) by buzzing the field in your rented airplane (thanks Joe).



Planning is already started on next year's event and I can hardly wait to bring my new car to the track.

A NEW event has recently been added to the SAMOA calendar. Fran Rowell has stepped forward to organize our participation in the annual Garden Valley Fourth of July Parade on, believe it or not, the Fourth of July. She is hosting a food fight, er I mean barbecue at her house after the parade. Contact Fran or see the SAMOA website for details. Thanks Fran for helping us to fill up another nook and cranny on the calendar with Miata stuff.

Help Wanted... I am in the market for a new car, but I'm not sure what to get except that I know I want a convertible, and I am willing to part with my 1999 Turbo to make it happen. I am open to suggestions, but instead of just telling me “you should get this” or “you really ought to consider that” tell me why as well. Here are my criteria. First and foremost, it must be a sports car that handles well. I have been thinking about a new Boxster, a used Boxster, a new S2000, a “slightly” used S2000, a new Miata, NOT a Solstice, NOT a Sky, maybe a 350Z droptop (but those are really ugly imho). What else am I missing? The ideal price point (before trade or sale of my car) is “about” \$30,000, so the new Boxster is really a stretch, and my birthday this week was not that profitable. BMW? I think the Z3 ilk are ugly, and they don't handle very well, and the Z4's are even uglier... lest you worry that I will be caught with my Miatas down, never fear... the plan is to buy an early NA Miata and turn it into a dedicated track beast... I already have too many spare parts lining the rafters of my garage to walk away, and besides, we KNOW what the best track beast is anyway. Anyone interested in a used but well maintained FMII Turbo Miata? I'll even throw in a spare motor (still crated from MazToy from a 2000 California Miata with only 8,000 miles on the clock). \$10,000.00 FOB 905 Sonoma Way. Discount offered if you can convince me what to buy.



Next SAMOA Club Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2006 at Coco's Family Restaurant, 1830 Arden Way, Sacramento 95815. The restaurant is across the street from Arden Fair Shopping Center. All Miata enthusiasts are welcome. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM, but come early for chow & chat.

Master Events Calendar

Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association

2006

CLUB	DATE(S)	DAY	EVENT TITLE	ORGANIZER	TYPE	CODES
JULY						
BAMA	Jul 01	Sat	Scharffengerber Run	Stephen Harris-Smith		-
SAMOA	Jul 4	Tue	Fourth of July Parade & Barbecue	Fran Rowell (530) 344-1913	M	\$ R
SAMOA	Jul 09	Sun	Gold Rush Run	Jeff Kilty (916) 798-2503	I	\$
SAMOA	Jul 13	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Jul 22	Sat	Run Around The Hills With Baddtaz	Dennis Dettloff/ Barbara Fenner (530) 644-7474	A	-
AUGUST						
CSCC	6-Aug	Sun	Autocross Part II	Tom Kubo (916) 847-8355	S	\$ R
SAMOA	Aug 10	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Aug 12	Sat	3rd. Not Quite Annual Poker Run	Jack Parker (916) 698-2006	A	\$ R
SEPTEMBER						
SAMOA	Sep 14	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Sep 23	Sat	Scrabble Scramble 2006	Denise Correia (916) 806-8707	I	\$\$ R H
SAMOA	Sep 24	Sun	Baddtaz Barbecue Run	Dennis Dettloff/ Barbara Fenner (530) 644-7474	A	\$ R
OCTOBER						
SAMOA	Oct 01	Sun	Annual SAMOA Picnic	Board of Officers		R
CLUB NW	Oct 06-08	Fri-Sun	Backroads to Bavaria IX	John Hewitt (360) 659-4248	T	\$\$ R H
SAMOA	Oct 06-09	Fri-Mon	Fort Bragg Trip	Ralph Gingrich (916) 721-4499 & Fran Rowell	I	\$\$\$ R H
SAMOA	Oct 12	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
NOVEMBER						
SAMOA	Nov 09	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
SAMOA	Nov 11	Sat	6th Annual Teddy Bear Toy Run	Jack Parker (916) 698-2006	A	\$
DECEMBER						
SAMOA	Dec 02	Sat	Holiday Party	Ralph Gingrich (916) 721-4499		\$\$ R
SAMOA	Dec 14	Thu	Monthly Club Meeting			-
<i>Key: \$ = under \$30 \$\$ = under \$75 \$\$\$ = over \$75. R = RSVP to event coordinator or event sponsor. H = hotel reservation required or recommended.</i>						

MIATA EVENT CATEGORIES



MILD: A relaxed scenic drive, slower paced, passenger-friendly, possible congested areas, several regroup stops. The main objective is to enjoy the scenery, eat and socialize.



INTERESTING: A drive with some intentional twisty roads, which allow the driver to enjoy the pace and the passenger to enjoy the scenery. It has a quicker pace, and usually ends with a meal and socializing.



A BLEND: This trip will allow the driver to exercise his/her driving skills on traditional Miata roads, within each driver's comfort level. Regroups areas. Passenger may miss some scenery. Ends with refreshments and shared stories of the road trip.



TRAVEL: Traveling some distance to meet, eat, socialize or visit locations. Often includes overnight stays or full day trips. Will entail a brisk pace with an emphasis on going directly, and may include freeways and faster direct roads, without regard to scenery.



ADVENTURESOME: Involves a quick, spirited pace. This run presents drivers with an opportunity to drive their Miatas to their individual safe limit. Will entail trips on back roads with lesser traffic, and lots of hills and curves. Motion sickness is not unheard of among passengers.



SPORTING: Includes track driving and autocross, with an objective of improving driving skills.

Membership Updates

By Ron Petrich

New Members in June:

Bob & Terri Bacon
Barry & Kathy Hemphill
Roberta McGuinn
Kevin Wise



Memberships Expiring on July 1:

Robin & Jeanne George
Joe & Tammy Herz
Richard & Dorothy McCamey



Jim & Jackie McClure
Ron Petrich
Glen & Carolyn Reed
Tom & Fran Rowell
Darlene Wilkinson

Memberships Expired on June 1:

Carole LaDue
Gene & Jan Leininger



Director of Partnership Development & Group Sales
Infineon Raceway

From: Freescopesdad [mailto:freescopesdad@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 11:37 AM
To: Brad Lawrence
Subject: Re: Indy Race August 27th

I just realized that we were there in force last year and yet this year you didn't even call us to see if we were interested. I just think you guys don't give a rat's behind about clubs unless they are on your favored list. Look how many times I had to write regarding the raffle prize you guys donated to Got Guts At Thunderhill - and then we get 2 tickets to the Winternationals, something that appeals to every road racer. I know you are just the messenger Brad, but it sure seems like you guys just don't give a damn anymore. Its all about making that last \$\$\$.

Ron

From: Brad Lawrence
To: Freescopesdad
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 4:06 PM
Subject: RE: Indy Race August 27th

Ron:

Great hearing from you. The past WCC was our best. Most of the car corrals were in the paddock next to the Copia Wine tent. Indy is going to be tough. We are only allowing 3 clubs and they are booked already. Having the Grand Am as part of that huge corporate hospitality weekend makes it hard to find space. I have attached a special flyer for that event. It's a great deal. We have bundled blocks of tickets and garage passes so that businesses and clubs have an easy and flexible way of rewarding employees, thanking customers for their business and having a lot of fun while doing it. If the clubs purchase this, then I am able to secure a spot. I would make room for Miatas if you opt for this. Let me know. Thanks.

Brad Lawrence
Director of Partnership Development & Group Sales
Infineon Raceway

From: Freescopesdad [mailto:freescopesdad@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 3:38 PM
To: Brad Lawrence
Subject: RE: Indy Race August 27th

Brad, I am thinking about leading a group of Miatas to Infineon for this race if you are having the corrals again, but only if the paddock and garage area will be open to us somehow. Nearly everyone complained last year about being shut out of the paddock, with no way to upgrade our tickets on site for a reasonable fee. You used to allow it at the Wine Country Classic and the ALMS race. Let me know OK?

Ron Petrich
Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association
www.gotgutsatthunderhill.com

Infineon Doesn't Love Us Anymore

By Ron Petrich

The following is an email thread between myself and Brad Lawrence at Infineon Raceway, when I inquired about our attendance again at the IRL (Indy Racing League) race in August. We attended last year, almost 30 cars showed up, and we had a great time despite the fact that there was no access to the paddock. The special flyer that Brad refers to was a corporate bundle that was offered to us, which included tickets to both the IRL and a GrandAm race, but with NO access to the paddock (for either one) and NO parking corral. The price was nearly \$1,500. Needless to say, the days of club-friendly race attendance seem to be over...at least at Infineon. The thread is in reverse order (most recent email first).



Ron:

I understand your anger. The reason I didn't contact your club or any other for that matter is because we can not accommodate clubs for IRL because of the lack of space. Every inch is given over to corporate hospitality and the Grand Am teams. The only clubs that contacted me and guaranteed over 100 cars was Porsche. they are being placed and Ferrari/Viper that contacted me as a must attend. I did not purposely contact any clubs for this event. The company does care very much about car clubs. Unfortunately, other than the WCC, there isn't space for them at any other event. Next year, I would like to offer your club exclusive space at WCC and 6 comp tickets to try and get you guys back. Sincerely,

Brad Lawrence

Mazda to Exhibit New Mazda MX-5 Miata With Power Retractable Hard Top at the British International Motor Show

By Adi Damania

Mazda Motor Corporation will make the global debut of the Mazda Miata Power Retractable Hard Top at the 2006 British International Motor Show in London, England. Since its launch in 1990, and with subsequent generations launched in 1999 and 2006, MX-5 Miata has always been available with an optional removable hardtop, but this is the first time the car will be available with a power-operated retractable hard top.



The annual British International Motor Show will be held in London from Tuesday, July 18, through Sunday, July 30, 2006. Featuring a new, unique power retractable hard top roof, this is an all-new addition to the third-generation Mazda Miata which launched in late 2005 as a 2006 model. This new Mazda MX-5 provides a unified sense of driving exhilaration, ready to spread the fun of lightweight sports cars in diverse and distinct new ways, regardless of the weather.

"Jinba Ittai" or 'rider and horse as one' is the essence of Mazda MX-5, the expression reflecting the emotional connection between a horse and rider. Along with the global debut of the MX-5 Power Retractable Hard Top, the Mazda "Sassou" and "Kabura" concept cars will also be shown. Mazda MX-5 with a power retractable hard top roof will be known by different names around the world (notice that Mazda has now totally dropped the word "Miata" for some odd reason!).

The Check Engine Light Story

By Adi Damania

A few months ago, the check engine light (CEL) came on in my 1999 10th Anniversary Miata "Blue Belle" on the weekly trip to work in Davis from Woodland only 12 miles away. I was forced to do this weekly trip to keep the OEM Panasonic battery charged. Otherwise after 7 days all I would hear is a "clack" sound on trying to start the car. Then out would come the trickle charger, extension wires hook up and the 12 hour wait till the engine was crankable on battery power. Once I even took the taboo short cut and asked Parvin to push the car in reverse out of the garage, put it in gear and gradually released the clutch. The car started without further tantrums.

But let me come back to the CEL. Parvin gets very nervous when any light which is not usually there comes on, including the low gas light in our Lexus. So to put her mind at ease I took the car to our friendly

Lexus mechanic in Woodland who told us that the code was P0402, a leakage somewhere in the exhaust system, but not something Brian said that would make the car stop dead on the Fwy. This was music to Parvin's ears. The code was cleared, but unfortunately, after only 3 days the dreaded CEL re-appeared on the instrument pod! I ignored it for a couple of days till I realized I had done 6000 miles since my last oil change! I use Mobil 1, and the manual does say change is OK up to 7000 miles, but all the same I made a beeline for the local Speedee pronto and as I was getting the oil changed. The Pakistani youngster changing the oil and seeing the sloughish way the car started, told me that he would like to check the battery. He hooked up the battery to a device which looked like a palmtop computer and grimly told me the instrument said "bad battery". As Autozone was next door, I went and got myself a new DuraLast Maita battery for a princely sum of \$89 incl. a six year guarantee. I thought the CEL would disappear after I disconnected the old one and reconnected the new one. But it did not. BTW the car alarm did go off for a couple of seconds when I disconnected the old battery and also when I reconnected the new one. But the car's alarm was not turned on and so the clever alarm was only

making its presence felt and not warning a prospective thief! The car, however, started like a top, and I soon discovered I need not drive it once a week anymore. It started after 15 days when we were in Hawaii recently. But now here comes the most interesting part; I had casually mentioned to Ron Petrich, our indefatigable events manager, my problem with the CEL. He looked at me, as he always does; it is a look of half bewilderment and half disgust, and told me "Do you top up after you gas up at the pump". I hung my head down and replied in the affirmative. "Stop doing it" advised Ron.

I had got in to the habit of filling the gas tank to the brim while stationed in Syria where the gas was dirt cheap and gas stations infrequent (70% of Syria is desert). So, the next time I went for gas in Woodland I let the filler pipe tell me when my gas tank was full and did not add another drop. I tightened the gas cap, clicked 3 times at least, and lo! and behold! the CEL was gone, and has not come back for a month now. Whatever Ron's peculiarities, he solved my problem and saved me from a huge mechanic's bill!! For that alone he deserves a prize - a dozen bottles of octane booster fluid.

Coming Attractions

Fort Bragg Weekend

By Ralph Gingrich

Yes, we are going back to Fort Bragg over the Columbus Day weekend. This event has been the longest-running event of the club and is a good one to attend.

We will leave from McDonald's in Davis (on Chile's Road at the Mace Boulevard exit from I80) on Friday or Saturday, October 6th. or 7th. at 8:30 AM. Vince Weis is working on a new route for the event. We will stop for a picnic lunch and he will have a place for us to pick up the food.

We will be putting on a Saturday night dinner. Fran Rowell and Ralph Gingrich are working on a menu for this now. It will include salad, main entree, and dessert. Last year it cost \$10.00 per person and we are working to maintain that price.

For reservations call the Best Western hotel at (707) 964-4776. The nightly rate is \$89.00 plus tax. We have already booked the cottage so we have a place to cook, play games and talk. The cutoff date to secure this room rate is September 13, 2006.

If you have any questions please call Ralph Gingrich at (916) 721-4499 or Fran Rowell at (530) 344-1913.

SAMOA Scrabble Scramble

By Denise Correia

September 22-24, 2006

Fun and games await you in Folsom, California! The [Sacramento Area Miata Owner Association \(SAMOA\)](#) invites you to come play in the foothills this fall. Enjoy a day filled with fun and games, fantastic scenery, and roads that were paved for Miatas. Meet new friends and catch up with old acquaintances from Miata clubs all

over the region.

Sign up now! Get your registration in early for a bonus commemorative t-shirt. Print, fill out, and mail the [registration form](#) to reserve your space. For out-of-towners, hotel accommodation information is available on the registration form.

About The Event

Friday - September 22rd:

Out-of-town participants arrive and will be greeted in the hotel hospitality suite. Many dinner and entertainment options are available in new Folsom along Bidwell or in historic Folsom on Sutter Street.

Saturday - September 23th:

Car show: Bring your bottle of spit-shine with you! A car show will be held prior the days' main event. Awards will be presented at dinner. **The main event:** SAMOA's Scrabble® Scramble is like a poker run with a twist. Participants follow a predetermined route and pick up Scrabble® tiles along the way. Who will have the winning word? Find out when prizes are awarded at the Mazda-sponsored dinner.

Sunday - September 24th:

SAMOAns bid farewell to out-of-town guests as they depart for home.

About Folsom

Folsom is a quaint Northern California town built during the gold rush era. The historic old town is filled with unique shops, popular restaurants, and a lively nightlife. On the edge of Lake Natoma, Folsom has many attractions, including the Folsom Powerhouse, a museum, historic buildings, and recreational paths along the lake. Just off Hwy 50 is the Courtyard Marriott in the new area near new restaurants and shops. For more information: [My Folsom.com](#)



Past Events

A Day of d'Elegance for SAMOA

By Dani Kastning

Etymology: French concours d'élégance, literally, competition of elegance: a show or contest of vehicles and accessories in which the entries are judged chiefly on excellence of appearance and turnout.



It was a gorgeous day and a wonderful turnout for the Shriner's 13th annual Concours d'Elegance held at Mather field Sunday, June, 11th. There was quite an array of custom cars, boats and bicycles to set eyes on from the classic oldies to what some manufacturers are currently offering in their new line-up. We Miata owners definitely

held our own as we proudly showed off the uniqueness of our roadsters. People stopped by to admire and photograph our cars and some shared with us their own past Miata experiences. The food offered was excellent along with beer, wine and soft drinks. This was the first time my husband Scott and I have been able to attend a club event since becoming members of SAMOA and as we pulled up to park our 2003 MX-5 LS among the other beautiful custom Miatas, we knew right away, we were among friends. We enjoyed meeting all of you, hearing the stories of past road trips and looking through David Chin's photos.



The winners this year in our class were Toby & Margaret, Skip and Ron Petrich. We watched and cheered as they proudly lined up with the other winners to receive their awards. This day, organized by Rod Gonzalez is one not to miss next year! It really was an honor and a joy to spend the day with each



one of you and we look forward to being able to participate in future events.

The Stewart's Point Pre-run Run, June 10, 2006

By Kathi Bell and Vince Weis

Leave it to Graeme to come up with a new twist on twisties! The Stewart's Point Pre-run Run worked for us in a couple of ways. First, we were not available to go on the Stewart's Point Run on the 17th, although we have wanted to take that run for many years. Second, we wanted to check out some possible routes for the Samoa Fort Bragg

Weekend over the Columbus Day weekend when we will be leading the Friday run.

We arrived in Davis and met Graeme and Sharon at McDonalds. We left right on time, since it is a good idea to try to replicate the conditions of the Run-to-Be as much as possible when doing a pre-run. In the first several miles, we learned something new...a way to get to Winters WITHOUT going on the freeway. Thank you, Graeme and Sharon!

In describing this run at the SAMOA June meeting, Graeme called it "just like the real run, but with U-turns". This was a right-on description! The story of the "Pre-run Run" illustrates why it is so important to do a "pre-run" of an event, even in these days of MapQuest and other computer route planning programs.

Of course, Graeme had done his homework on the computer and had the route planned. He has also done this run many times. Still, the pre-run proved to be an adventure.

First, when setting up any run, there is always the "bio break planning". We actually met up with one additional car at our first bathroom-break-exploration stop. (Its driver, Rich, had planned to meet us at an alternate pick up point, but arrived early at Silverado Trail and decided to come looking for us). Because we stopped at Four Corners by Lake Berryessa, the folks on the 17th will not have to. The bathrooms fell into the "just O.K." range, but there was only "one seat" for women and one for men. There was a walk through a room full of junk to get there and any line would either have to be in the junk room or bar. The Conn Lake boat ramp proved to be a better option. Along the way we noticed some axle-breaker potholes, which Graeme

now knows to warn folks about at the 17th driver's meeting.



Next, we looked at the Community Park in Calistoga for another pit stop. Or rather we looked FOR the Community Park in Calistoga. We finally found it a couple of U-turns later. It is great with seating for two in each facility, plus soap and running water. Of course, on the 17th, folks will get there minus the U-turns!

Leaving Calistoga, we headed west on Highway 128. Along the way, we located Petrified Forest Road, one possibility for the Fort Bragg run. This day, however, we continued on 128 through Knights Valley and the Alexander Valley.

Our next series of U-turns came when we first went straight rather than making a sharp right turn that 128 makes by the Alexander Valley Store. As it turned out, we should have just kept going, but, of course, made a U-turn to rectify the "error". We then learned that Highway 128 was "closed in six miles at the Russian River Bridge". Uh, is this the bridge that goes into Geyserville? After a quick run down 128 to get an idea where six miles might be, Graeme decided it was. So after one more U-turn and retracing our steps, we were back



on the other road again since a sign said it went to Healdsburg, which was at least the general direction we wanted to go.

The cars in front of us turned onto a road called Lytton Valley Rd. Graeme made a quick decision to follow them. Might this road go to Lytton Springs? Indeed, after going under Highway 101, it turned into Lytton Springs Rd. Vince and I had been to the Lytton Springs Winery on Lytton Springs Rd. coming from the other direction and remembered that we had come from the Lake Sonoma area to go there. Therefore, we were pretty sure that we were on the right track and radioed ahead. Sharon, who was looking at the map in the lead car had come to the same conclusion. The result? We found a better Miata road than the one computer-planned to get from the Alexander Valley to Lake Sonoma. We skipped Geyserville (a town that falls in the category of “not much to look at”) altogether.

The Lake Sonoma Recreation area is a good place for a bio break (multiple seating, soap, well maintained) before heading over the hills along the beautiful, but isolated road to Stewart’s Point. Along that way, as we enjoyed the curves and spectacular scenery we did check out the Annapolis Rd. as a Fort Bragg run possibility.

After a beautiful run through the forested twisties, we ended up in Stewart’s Point where we stopped for a leg stretch, seeing the ocean for the first time. Then we headed south on Highway 1, when Graeme and Sharon decided that a planned trip back up along the ridge would put lunch too late. Nevertheless, they decided to check out Rhododendron State Park which was at the end of the planned ridge route. Imagine our chagrin to learn that the road UP to that Park is gravel. That, of course means that the road DOWN from the ridge was this same gravel! Lesson learned. Fortunately, learned the easy way.



Next we explored possible lunch venues. One likely looking restaurant was both closed and up for lease (not likely to open up any time soon!). We stopped for lunch ourselves at the Timber Cove Lodge, which will probably win the spot as the run lunch venue, since one other place Graeme and Sharon checked out after our lunch did not have ANY bathrooms.

The run back down the Coast to Bodega Bay was beautiful and we learned from Graeme a much quicker way through Petaluma than we had ever known. We hated to get on 80 for our first freeway driving on the entire run, but it did get us home at a reasonable hour. Who ARE all those people on the freeway and where are they going?

This was really a fun run. This “Pre-run Run” reminded us why it is we DO pre-runs. A pre-run can be as much fun as the run itself, but be sure to allow plenty of time for the “redos”. Bring snacks, just in case. Bring maps, not just a computer generated route. You may just find a better road to go!

Got Guts At Thunderhill

Associated Press Wire Services

Willows, CA – Thunderhill Raceway Park played host last Monday

(June 19, 2006) to another track day, just as the facility has done nearly every day for the last umpteen years. But this one was different. *Got Guts At Thunderhill*, sponsored by SAMOA, the Sacramento Area Miata Owners Association, was held to raise money for the CCFA, the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America. In addition to the normal track day activities, a benefit raffle was also conducted on site, which brought in additional funds. In all, more than \$10,000 was raised. A check for \$10,050.50 will be presented to CCFA at the SAMOA’s July meeting.

Ron Petrich, the club’s events coordinator, started planning the event back in January. In addition to publicizing the activity on more than thirty automotive forums, Ron also published a website specifically devoted to this event. The site, at www.gotgutsatthunderhill.com, provided general information about Got Guts, as well as specifics relating to driver signups, raffle prizes and sponsor information. All of the forms needed to enroll were available at the site, which received more than 4,000 hits between February and June.

Seventy-three drivers registered for Got Guts, and were treated to a spectacular day of high-speed lapping at one of the West Coast’s premier tracks. During the noon hour a catered lunch provided a relaxing backdrop for the benefit raffle. Nearly 80 prizes with a retail value in excess of \$7,000 were raffled off. More than 35 donors contributed merchandise or services, ranging from automotive aftermarket retailers to wineries to car dealers.

So who is CCFA, and why were they picked to benefit from this event? It so happens that Mr. Petrich has suffered from Crohn’s disease since 1992. It is a debilitating disease of the intestinal tract for which there is no cure – treatment yes – but no cure. Ron has survived abdominal surgery and several hospitalizations since his diagnosis, but is now enjoying a remission in his disease. Much of the credit for that belongs with the medical and research communities, who have provided many new treatments for Crohn’s and its evil twin, ulcerative colitis. CCFA is at the forefront in raising money for research to find a cure for IBD – inflammatory bowel disease.

Since Ron purchased his Miata in 1999 he has become what is known as a track junkie. He spends several days a year participating in open lapping events throughout Northern California, and primarily at Thunderhill. Having organized several track days a few years earlier, Ron knew what was involved, and decided that a well-organized effort would be profitable. The result speaks volumes, however, about the generosity of the raffle donors, event sponsors, and especially the drivers who signed up and bought raffle tickets. Next year’s Got Guts II is already in the planning stages. Look for it early next year at www.gotgutsatthunderhill.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale - Winning Power racing brake kit. For front brakes only. Includes 11.5” drilled and slotted rotors, pads and adapter brackets for the front stock calipers. \$175 OBO. Contact Jim McClure at (916) 332-9490. (2)

For Sale - Hard Dog Hard Core single diagonal roll bar for NA (first generation) Miata. Asking \$250.00. Also a set of four (4) Kumho Victoracer tires (205/50-15) mounted on black 15x6.5 Rota Circuit 8 rims. Asking \$400.00. Contact Joe Rainbolt at joe.rainbolt@thomson.net or (530) 477-2208. (2)

Got Guts At Thunderhill Photo Gallery



Prime athletes carbo-loading the night before the big race



A rapt audience at the driver's meeting



Susan from CCFA - Hey buddy, wanna get a good deal on a colonoscopy?



Happy campers...at least for now



Come on Petrich...faster faster



Who are these guys? Thank God we didn't have a karaoke machine



The early birds get the shade



The first group of the day heads out on the track at 9:00 AM sharp



Miata on steroids...or the Barry Bonds of MazdaSpeed



Oldie but Goodie Alfa Romeo...this was one of the fastest cars at the track



Alice prepares a fantastic lunch spread



Mike Hagerla and MiniMe hounding a Viper to no end

SAMOA Scrabble Scramble 2006

by Denise Correia

Mark your calendar for September 23, 2006 for the Scrabble Scramble in Folsom. During the morning car show we will have another new MX-5 (a 2007 this time) from Folsom Mazda to test drive. We are planning another great route. Mazda is sponsoring the awards dinner. Check the SAMOA website for details. www.samoa.org The cost is \$60 per vehicle and includes two lunches, two dinners, a t-shirt and chances to win great awards and prizes. The hotel is the Courtyard by Marriott in Folsom (916-984-7624). The hospitality suite on Friday evening will provide time for all of us to socialize with regional club members. Register prior to August 23, 2006 for a bonus t-shirt. Contact Denise Correia at (916) 806-8707 or deni@samoa.org for additional information, to volunteer for this event, or for a "no passenger" discount.

SAMOA SCRABBLE SCRAMBLE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2006

Driver: _____ Passenger: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$60 PER CAR

Note: The registration fee includes participation in the car show, Scrabble Scramble, one T-shirt, lunch and awards dinner for two.

Please indicate the size of shirt you will need for the one (1) included shirt. All shirts are 50% cotton/50% polyester and will shrink minimally after washing.

M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___

Optional additional T-Shirts are \$10 each. Please specify size and quantity.

M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ Total # _____ @ \$10 = \$ _____

Lunch Buffet (for two)

Dinner choices (must be pre-ordered); includes soft drink:

___ BBQ Pork Babyback Ribs

___ BBQ Chicken

___ Beer-Battered Fish & Chips

___ Fresh Garden Salad

Dessert Choices:

___ Seasonal Cobbler

___ New York Cheesecake

___ Chocolate Fudge Cake

Refund Policy

Cancellations received prior to July 1, 2006: Full Refund

Cancellations received between July 1 and September 1st: \$22.50 refund (T-shirt will be sent with refund)

No Refunds after September 1st 2006. T-shirt will be mailed to you.

Send Registration Form and Check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to SAMOA to:

SAMOA Scrabble Scramble, c/o Denise Correia, P.O. Box 2283, Folsom, CA 95763

RECOMMENDED HOTEL:

Courtyard by Marriott

2575 Iron Point Road

Folsom, CA 95630

Phone: 916-984-7624

"Miata Club" special rate (\$89.99 rate – King/2Queen) before July 31

Residence Inn Suites

2555 Iron Point Road

Folsom, CA 95630

Phone 916-983-7289

Miata Club special rate (\$109.99) before July 31

First Class Mail



MiataTudes
PO Box 392 Orangevale, CA 95662



Are you interested in joining a Miata club
That offers driving and social events,
The opportunity to learn more about your car,
but moreover the camaraderie of other
Miata owners like yourself?

The Sacramento Area Miata Owners
Association meets the second Thursday of
Each month at Coco's Restaurant,
1830 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA
(that's just across the street from Arden Fair)
At 7:00 PM. Many members come early and
Enjoy a meal with other club members.

Join us for a no-obligation free tour.
And visit us on the web at www.samoa.org.

Contact _____

At _____



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